Authority of India (TRAI) on the issue of limiting the number of access providers in each service area and review of certain terms and conditions in the access provider license. On 29.08.2007, TRAI, after a consultation process with the stakeholders including Cellular Operators Association of India, Bharti and Vodafone, has recommended that no cap be placed on the number of access services providers in any service area. As on date, no decision has been taken on TRAI's recommendations.

(c) Given the central aim of New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99) to ensure rapid expansion of teledensity, Government, in the public interest in general and consumer interest in particular and for the proper conduct of telegraphs and telecommunications services, has issued these licences for access services, which has resulted in reduction in telecom tariff and unprecedented growth of telecom services due to competition.

Special incentive package for semiconductor manufacturing

2477. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given in principle approval to the special incentive package prepared by the Department of Information Technology for semiconductor manufacturing and other high-tech industries;

(b) if so, whether the parameters of this package have been announced;

(c) if so, the details of the same;

(d) whether making bandwidth available to every Indian has to remain a priority, as it holds the key to bridging the digital divide; and

(e) if so, by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The Special Incentive Package Scheme to encourage investments for setting up Semiconductor Fabrication and other micro and nano technology manufacture industries in India, has been announced by the Government *vide* Gazette Notification No. 78, Part I, Section I dated 21st March, 2007. A copy of the Notification is available on the *website http://www.mit.gov.in.*

(d) and (e) The Government has been able to provide state of art world-class telecom infrastructure at globally competitive tariffs and to reduce digital divide by extending connectivity to the unconnected areas.

Target set by DoP

2478. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra circle of the department of Posts has projected a turnover of Rs. 550 crore during the year 2007-08 fiscal from its various business propositions across Maharashtra and Goa;